

## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

The Provo Canyon Company was formed the next evening, with President Young himself subscribing for 200 shares of stock. Feramor Little was named superintendent of the project with W. G. Mills as clerk. A company of laborers was formed and work began on the road.

As the wagon ruts through the canyon were formed into a road, the laborers faced the necessity of building a bridge over the Provo River. It was decided to place the bridge near the mouth of the canyon, and engineering work was begun immediately by Henry Grow, who later won fame for his construction of the Salt Lake Tabernacle.

When the bridge was completed in October of 1858 the Deseret News said in its edition of Oct. 13, 1858, that the bridge was "substantially and neatly made and calculated to be of service for many years to the inhabitants of Utah County."

While the road saved many miles for transcontinental teamsters and travelers in and out of Utah County, its most important contribution came in opening up Wasatch County for permanent settlement.

## CHAPTER TWO

*...And There Was Life in the Valley*

Winter in the mountains and valleys of Deseret was a test of faith and stamina for the pioneer Saints. Snows and bitter, blowing winds came early and lasted long. In the high valleys of the Wasatch the frosts were heavy in September and snows were on the ground in October. Spring sunshine rarely melted the earth's snow crust until late March or April, leaving only about five summer months to prepare for cold, ice and snow all over again.

Anxieties about the weather were sharply accentuated for some 11 pioneer families in Utah Valley during the winter of 1858-59, for they were making plans to move into new homes high in the Wasatch mountains when Spring came.

The road through Provo Canyon had been finished before the snows fell and a bridge spanned the Provo River. With the decision made to move into the valley, they spent the short days and long, crisp winter nights in building furniture and making clothes. Plows had to be sharpened and harrows made ready for the sagebrush and soil of the new country. Wagons had to be repaired and those who lacked teams had to acquire them.

William Meeks was appointed leader of the group and they met frequently under his direction to ask the Lord to bless them in their preparations. Their constant prayer was that the elements would be tempered so they could mature crops and sustain themselves and their families in the new country.

Spring came late in 1859 and it was the last day of April before the group of 11 men with their three wagons and teams of oxen could leave Provo.

Families of the men had agreed to remain behind in Provo until log cabins could be built and other preparations made for their coming. Tearfully, the wives and children stood by that April morning as they watched their husbands and fathers start out toward Provo Canyon and a new life.

Facing the uncertainties of the venture were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, William Giles Jr., William Carpenter and George Carlile.

Winter and the forces of nature had played havoc with the road in many places and traveling was slow. In addition, several snowslides blocked the route, making the journey hazardous as well as exhausting.



Dirt floors, dirt roofs and mud packed between the logs were the order of the day.

When the crops were planted and the log huts prepared, the men left the valley and went back to Provo where happy families greeted them with shouts of "How's the weather?" and "When are we going?"

With wives, children, cows, pigs, chickens and all their earthly possessions packed, the original company started out and were joined by others who were cheered by the reports of a good summer and plenty of farming land and irrigation water. Some of the additional families who came were Thomas H. Giles, John Giles, Hiram Oaks and George Carlile.

During that first summer, some 1,000 bushels of grain were raised in the valley. Though some of the wheat crop was injured by early frost, it could still be made into flour and the settlers rejoiced for the blessings of the harvest. Because the nearest gristmill was in Provo and a four-days' journey away, many of the people ground flour in small hand mills or boiled the wheat and ate it whole with milk.

With the crops in and summer on the wane, dread winter again loomed up before the people. Farming efforts had been to raise wheat and other crops to sustain human life, and so before winter came it was necessary to cut meadow hay and swamp grass for cattle wherever it could be found. All of it had to be cut by hand with a scythe, which proved to be the hardest work of the summer.

Many of the men who had come to the valley during the summer and raised their crops decided that they would return to Provo for the winter rather than provide hay for their cattle and be shut out from the rest of the world for the long winter months.

However, 18 families had cast their lot with Provo Valley and through the winter they stayed. These families, according to the journal of John Crook, were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Jordan, Alexander Sessions, Bradford Sessions, Hiram Oaks, John Lee, Richard Jones, James Davis, William Davidson, James Laird, John Sessions, Elisha Thomas, James Carlile and George Carlile. Jane Clotworthy and Elizabeth Carlile were both widows. Charles C. Thomas, unmarried, lived with his brother Elisha. No record is made of the exact number of women and children.

The first birth among the settlers in the valley occurred in November. The child, a daughter of William Davidson and his wife, Ellen, was named Timpanogos, the Indian name for the valley and the prominent mountain that lay at the west.

For those who remained, the first winter in the valley was a long and dreary one. The snow fell early and was several feet deep. For nearly four months they were without communication from the rest of the world.

At Christmas time, however, a group of young people from Provo braved the weather and came through the canyon by sleigh and spent the holiday season with the families in the valley. They soon left and no one else came into the valley until the snows melted.

Their being shut out from the rest of the world did not mean that the settlers spent the winter days and nights with long faces and twiddling thumbs. Quite the opposite. Meeting in the various log homes, they held Church meetings each Sabbath day and during the week gathered for singing, dancing and dramatics.

As the Spring of 1860 neared they hopefully looked for signs that winter was leaving and warm weather was on its way. By the end of March when the snow was still as deep as ever and no signs of Spring were evident, some began to get discouraged. It was finally determined that all would meet at the home of Thomas Rasband where a meeting would be held and the help of the Lord sought.

Those present reported that during the meeting they prayed sincerely and earnestly that the Lord would cause the snow to melt and Spring to come so that their famished oxen and cows might get grass to eat and that they could plant their crops and be in touch again with their friends in the lower valleys.

Before the meeting was dismissed there was water dripping from the eaves of the house and Spring was born in the valley.

# FRANCIS KERBY II AND MARY LE CARNU



Francis Kerby II was born on the Isle of Jersey (English Channel island) on August 17, 1821, of wealthy Scotch and English parents.

His wife, Mary Le Carnu, was born September 16, 1823, of French parents, John Le Carnu and Mary Renouf.

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Francis Kerby was baptized by Elder Dunbar of Salt Lake City, July 4, 1849, and his wife, July 12, 1849. They were baptized in the face of fierce opposition from their Church of England, their parents, and families.

As Francis was a college graduate and spoke French fluently, he was called on two missions to France, and later another mission to Sheffield, England, where he was president of the Sheffield conference. He was a High Priest.

Mary was a very capable business woman, who owned and operated her own shop. She also took care of the children while he was away serving on missions. All this time they were saving for their trip to Zion and they sailed for Boston with five children, March 26, 1858, arriving 23 days later. The voyage cost \$75. The receipt for the purchase of the tickets for this voyage are still in existence.

After a short time they went to New York where Francis presided over the New York branch of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He stayed there a year. His trade of painting and glazing helped the family in New York, also later in Florence, Nebraska, where they arrived May 28, 1859.

On July 6, 1860, "they had the privilege of crossing the plains," as Mr. Kerby put it, with the Oscar O. Stoddard handcart company. After many unbelievable hardships, they arrived in Salt Lake Valley, September 24, 1860. In their diary they wrote, "We arrived in the valley of Salt Lake after a pleasant journey." Could anyone today think of this as a pleasant journey?

They bought a lot, built a house and made a fine garden. His wife sold two of her fine silk dresses to buy a cow for the family. It was at this time Brigham Young called them to Wallsburg, or Round Valley, as it was then known, and Francis worked at his trade in all surrounding towns.

They obtained 20 acres of land and with the help of their two oldest sons, they started to build their home. This frame house became the first house in Wallsburg to have a wood floor and a shingle roof.

They were all good Church workers. Francis was a fluent speaker and also lead the singing. Twice the Indians drove them back to Provo, but each time they returned.

Mary LeCarnu was always saving money to do work in St. George, Manti and Logan Temples. Since her husband and his oldest

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sons had been working so hard on the Salt Lake Temple, her greatest desire was to work in the Salt Lake Temple. However, she died May 9, 1893, one month after the temple was dedicated.

Her husband kept the Wallsburg Church records for many years. At this time he owned three farms besides the home, and all his buildings were in excellent condition.

There were 10 children born to the couple, the youngest being Isabell Kerby. Our grandfather spent the latter years of his life with his two daughters, Isabell and her sister Harriet Mecham. He loved to read and took all Church papers. At the end, his eyesight failed, but his daughter Isabell's family was a great comfort to him. They loved him dearly. Due to his eyesight being bad he struck his leg on a crate and the wound did not heal properly. Gangrene set in and he was taken home in the year 1915 at the age of 94. Had he not had this accident it was thought he would live to be 100.

Their children were: John, Mary, Alma, Harriet, Joseph, Eliza, Alice, Louisa Jane, and Isabella.

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*Francis Kerby*

It was in 1860 that Wm. M. Wall moved his family and all their belongings to what was called Round Valley. The valley was practically enclosed by mountains and was an ideal place to graze cattle because of the protective hills.

Because these first settlers still had property and interests in Provo and Heber they were in Round Valley only part of the time but by the winter of 1864-5 it became a permanent settlement, with at least five families staying there that winter. They were the Walls, George and Emma Brown, the William Jasper Borens, Dixon H. Greers and one or possibly two other families. The men had been so busy building homes and buildings that they failed to get enough hay put up for their cattle to winter on. Before spring broke their livestock were on the verge of starvation so they diverted the warm water of Spring Creek out onto the meadows, melting the two feet deep snow from the grass and saved their stock.

Because of his leadership ability, Elder Wall was called to serve as the Presiding Elder in Provo Valley and was responsible for all the Church activity in the new area. He served until 1861 when Joseph S. Murdock was sent by President Brigham Young to be bishop of the new ward in Heber. Elder Wall continued as presiding elder in Round Valley until his death Sept. 18, 1869.

Among the early settlers in Round Valley were Enoch Gurr, Dixon Greer and James Gurr and their families. Later came J. W. Boren, Moses Mecham, Edward Stokes, James and Reuben Allred, Guy Kaiser, George Brown, Luke Burdick and Francis Kerby. These settlers and their families believed that they could easily cultivate all the land in the valley and so they discouraged others from coming in.

However, they soon found that the water supply was sufficient and that the community needed more people to build socially as well as financially. So the Battys, Mechams and Bigelows, Martin Ford, William Stoker, John Davis, James Burnes, James Wheeler and the Thompsons came in, bringing their families.

These and others busily engaged in building homes, clearing the land of logs and sagebrush and planting their crops.

One Sunday afternoon in the Spring of 1865 as Elder Wall was conducting the Sabbath meeting, a messenger came from Heber City with word that the Indians were on the warpath under the direction of Chief Black Hawk and his brother, Chief Tabby. The instructions were for the people to leave Round Valley and come to Heber. So, under the direction of Elder Wall, the people packed what belongings they could and left the next morning for Heber.

Just a few months previously, James Allred and his wife Jennie had buried their little daughter, Clara. Her death was the first in Round Valley and brought much sorrow to the people. When the order came to move to Heber, "Aunt Jennie" as she was known, said she felt great disappointment in leaving the little grave, not knowing whether she

## THE CHURCH IN WALLSBURG

Because all of the early settlers in Wallsburg were members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, they accepted Church activity as a prime factor of life. Thus, they built their community life and social affairs around the Church.

William M. Wall was first presiding elder in the valley and served until the organization of a ward July 15, 1877 when William E. Nuttall was appointed bishop. Bishop Nuttall served until 1886 when he was suc-

## BISHOPS OF THE WALLSBURG WARD



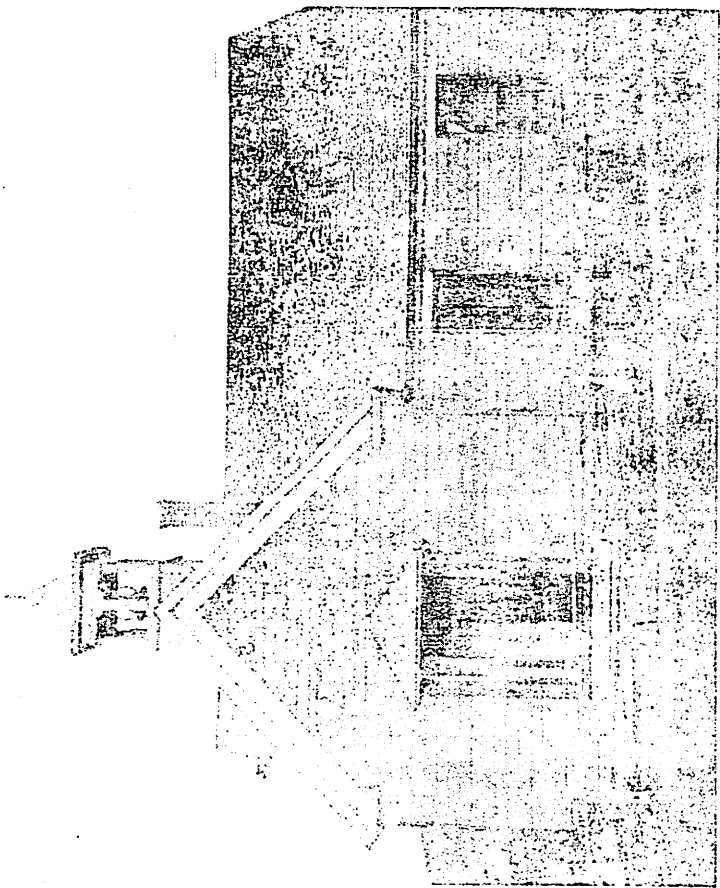
William E. Nuttall    Francis Kerby II    Franklin A. Fraughton    George Peter Garff



Wm. Price Fullmer    George A. Gardner    James W. Boyden    D. Dewey Bigelow



Carl Batty    Elmo A. Ford    Reed Ford



The old Wallisburg Ward Chapel and school, which was built during the term of Bishop William E. Nuttall, who was bishop from 1877 to 1886. At the time the chapel was constructed a separate building was erected for young men and still another Relief Society building for the women.

ceeded by Francis Kerby. Counselors to Bishop Kerby were John C. Parcell and Dixon H. Greer, with Joseph K. Parcell, clerk.

Other bishoprics have been as follows:

Bishop Franklin A. Fraughton, July 14, 1887 to May 11, 1903. Robert Cook and Lewis Mechem were counselors and five men served during the years as clerks. They were Joseph K. Parcell, Ethan Allen Duke, Joseph K. Parcell, John C. Greer and John Lewis Parcell.

Bishop George Peter Gaff, May 11, 1903 to Jan. 28, 1912. His counselors were William A. Nuttall, William J. Boren and John C. Whiting. Clerks were John Lewis Parcell and John M. Calderwood.

Bishop William P. Fullmer, Jan. 28, 1912 to March 26, 1916. Counselors were Franklin A. Fraughton, John Frank Mechem and Clerks Landy M. Foster and John C. Greer.

Bishop George A. Gardner, March 26, 1916 to July 1, 1934. Counselors included Ernest Jacobsen, George L. Batty and Alfred Ford Jr. Lewis C. Parcell was clerk during the entire period of Bishop Gardner's service.

## PIONEERS AND PROM

KERRY, FRANCIS, JR. (son of Francis Kerby and Jane Guillean of Isle of Jersey, Channel Islands, Eng.). Born Aug. 17, 1820, Isle of Jersey. Came to Utah Sept. 24, 1860. Oscar O. Stoddard handcart company.

Married Mary LeCormu Oct. 8, 1845, Island of Jersey (daughter of John LeCormu and Mary Renout of same place). She was born Sept. 19, 1823. Their children: John b. April 20, 1846, d. March 13, 1852; Francis b. Aug. 9, 1847. m. Rachel Isabel Riggs, m. Leah P. Smith; Mary b. Oct. 25, 1850, m. Edward Stock; Alma b. Nov. 15, 1853, m. Bathsheba Wall, m. Eida Rogers; Harriet b. Jan. 13, 1855. m. Brigham Meacham; Joseph b. March 16, 1857, m. Nellie Murphy; Eliza b. April 26, 1859, d. Aug. 1, 1861; Alice b. Jan. 11, 1862, m. Robert Cook; Louisa Jane b. April 13, 1864, m. William Nuttall, m. Hyrum Meacham; Isabella b. Jan. 12, 1870, m. David A. Penrod. Family resided Salt Lake City and Wallisburg, Utah.

President of Sheffield conference, England; high priest. Painter. Died at Wallisburg, Utah. 995



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JOSEPH KERBY AND MARY  
ELLEN MURPHY



Joseph Kerby was born March 16, 1857, to Francis Kerby II and Mary Le Cannu Kerby, handcart pioneers in the Oscar O. Stoddard handcart company. He married Mary Ellen Murphy, born September 23, 1861, daughter of Harriet D. Camp (Murphy) and Dixon Hamlin Greer, on October 23, 1879. Joseph died September 16, 1911 and Mary Ellen died September 26, 1938 in Provo.

Joseph was a painter, paper hanger, and an artist. He worked hard as did his wife and they raised a big family. Their grandchildren are engaged in this kind of work in

Provo. Mary Ellen was a hard worker and kind mother.

Joseph painted many beautiful scenes of Provo Canyon and the mountains and lakes of Utah. He also was an exceptional actor and took part in many plays in Wasatch County, and Utah County.

They moved to Provo Bench about 1902 or 1903 where he bought a farm and it was kept in perfect shape.

Their children were: Melissa, Mark, Oasis, Harriett, Marion, Joseph, Francis, Margaret, Alma, Gladys, Alice. 958

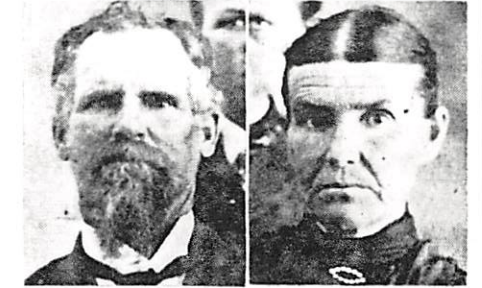


## BRIGHAM MECHAM AND HARRIET KERBY MECHAM

Brigham Young, born November 24, 1847, in Garden Grove, Iowa. He married October 20, 1873, at Salt Lake City, Utah. Died November 15, 1920 at Wallsburg, Utah. His wife Harriet Kerby was born January 13, 1855, Channel Islands, Isle of Jersey, France. Died April 3, 1934, at Wallsburg, Utah. She is the daughter of Francis and Mary Le Carnu Kerby.

Mr. Mecham was a High Priest. Was presiding Elder or Bishop of the Rosehill Branch of the Wallsburg Ward of the Latter-day Saints Church for two years, and a home missionary. 960

### WALLSBURG BIOGRAPHIES



In 1865 he stood guard on Provo River at Heber City, Utah. He was a Blackhawk War veteran, and a farmer.

At one time he was rated as one of the ten best swimmers in Utah.

It has been said no one ever left their home hungry. They had a large, honorable family.

Their children were: Mary Viola, Harriet Eliza, Roy and Ray (twins), Lewis Walter, Francis, Alice, Brigham Warren, Margaret, and Albert Wells. 961